

To Whom It May Concern:

As a graduate of Harvard Business School (the same institution that trained our President), I have become increasingly convinced that the continued expansion of societal welfare depends upon vigorous competition between private interests. Though there are certainly domains in which the existence of economic externalities justifies governmental intervention into the competitive market, local broadcast of radio signals is not one of these. The industry is populated by for-profit enterprises (which are themselves increasingly non-local in scope) providing a public good in order to create private wealth. In such a circumstance, an additional provider similarly pursuing private wealth through the offering of a differentiated service serves only to enlarge the market and increase consumer surplus.

In this specific instance, the entry of satellite radio (of which I have been a delighted subscriber for years) into local news and weather proves, from the consumer perspective, purely additive to the market. There are no primary or secondary effects that can be expected to reasonably occur that will act to the detriment of consumer surplus. The only potentially detrimental effect will be on the finances of the private enterprises that rely on the exploitation of local monopolies to prosper despite sub-standard offerings. Please value the benefit to consumers of expanded offerings over the misfortune of non-competitive providers when considering NAB petition 04-160 and reaffirm the competitive principles upon which America's prosperity is grounded.

Sincerely,
Michael Lindsey